neither wholly nor partially financed by the Central Government. As such the question of implementation of the recommendations of the Kartar Singh Committee in the case of the ESI hospital does not arise.

Modernisation of Steel plants

770. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI SANATAN BISI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to modernised public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, the steel plants brought under the modernisation programmes;

(c) in how many phases the Rourkela steel plant is being modernised and expanded; and

(d) the amount spent on the modernisation and, expansion of Rourkela steel plants during last five years and also the araount proposed to be invested?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The public sector integrated steel plants brought under the modernisation programme are Durgapur Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant and Bokaro Steel Plant of the Steel Authority of India Limited.

(c) The Rourkela Steel Plant is being modernised in two phase i.e. Phase-I and Phase-II.

(d) Government had approved in May 1992. the revised cost estimate of the Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation scheme at Rs. 3954 crores. The amount spent on the modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant during the last 5 years is as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	173.21
1992-93	350.88
1993-94	457.07
1994-95	870.63
1995-96	869.98

Identification of Blocks in Gujarat and Maharashtra Under PM's Scheme

771. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PAR-MAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some blocks in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra under the Prime Minister's scheme in backward/tribal areas for providing the consumer goods at subsidised rates;

(b) if so, the details of the blocks identified and number of items provided at subsidised rates, so far; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the supply of levy sugar and other items to these States under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Revamped Public Distribution system (RPDC) cover 97 and 114 blocks in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively. The Central Government issues foodgrains to these areas at specially subsidised Central Issue Prices (CIP) at the rate of Rs. 50/- per quintal lower than the CIPs for normal PDS areas. The States have been advised to add not more than 25 paise per Kg. over and above the CIPs while fixing the end retail prices. The Central Government also makes allocation of sugar, kerosene, imported ed-, ible oil and soft/CIL Coke to States/UTs for distribution in PDS/RPDS areas.

(c) Allocation of levy sugar to States/ UTs was being made at the rate of 425

gms. per head per month with reference to population as on 1.10.1986. This has been changed from 1.1.1996 changing the population reference from 1986 to 1991 census. Prior to 1.1.96 the allocation for Maharashtra and Gujarat were 29960 and 16227 tonnes per month respectively. After 1.1.1996 it is 33550 and 17557 tonnes per month respectively. Allocation of kerosene oil to States/UTs is made in accordance with the principle under which the States having per capita availability of kerosene oil less than the National average, are given priority in increased allocation. Gujarat and Maharashtra have been given 1% increase each in allocation during 1996—97 over the year 1995—96. Accordingly the allotment for these States during 1995—96 and 1996—97 are as follows:

(in MTS)

Stata	1995-96'	
Maharashtra	*1527649*	1542924
Gujarat	806278	814341

The allocation of other Public Distribution System (PDS) commodities like foodgrains, imported edible oil and soft coke are made after taking into account various factors like procurement, availability in the Central Pool, inter-se requirements of States/UTs, past trends of off-take, etc.

Fraud by Jewellery Exporters

772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain jewellery exporters had been recently found involved in a massive fraud in misappropriating gold worth over 20 crore under the jewellery export promotion scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into the fraud stating whether any officials are involved in the racket; and

(d) action taken by Government against those involved in the fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BULLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) No. Sir, However, instance of default in export of gold jewellery by the exporters have come to light in respect of supply of gold by MMTC under the gold/ silver/platinum jewellery and articles Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme.

(c) and (d) Government has constituted in Inter-Ministerial Group under the Chairmanship of Commissioner of Customs, Delhi to take Coordinated action against exporters of gold jewellery who commit irregularities under the scheme for supply of gold by MMTC and refer them to the concerned agencies for expeditious action against the defaulters. To reduce the incidence of misuse by the exporters, the Govt. has made a few changes in the Hand Book of Procedures. Period allowed for exports has been reduce from 120 days to 60 days on gold supplied on loan and 90 days on outright purchase basis. The jewellery Units in EPZs/EOU complexes are required to furnish bank guarantee on graded scales from 10% to 100% depending upon the export performance.

Wage Revision and Implementation of New DA Formula in CPSUs

773. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHER-JEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in more than sizes CPSUs wage revision and implementation of new DA formula are still pending;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a continuous erosion of skilled manpower from these PSUs as a result of this delay;

(c) whether Government have intervened to ensure immediate wage revision and implementation of new DA formula to avoid industrial unrest; and